

Senator Beutler has taught me that, and so I do appreciate his patience, the numbers of meetings, the number of hearings that we've had on this issue. What we do is create a two-tiered emission cap. We provide for surplus funds generated from 1995 and 1996 emissions fees to be offset and we provide a new system really for the department, DEQ, to look at as how they cost out the fees that are charged utilities. And, really, Senator Janssen has made this his priority bill and this became a real issue, I think, for Senator Janssen that he will be speaking to, that previously we just had the bill on the LUST fund, that this goes back to the issue of asking DEQ to be very accountable in what they're charging businesses and that they run the emission fees as a business, and we can be talking about that later, but that's...really, we create a two-tier system on the emissions and then a new system that will be implemented over the next two years. There will be plenty of time for public input on how DEQ will charge those fees, so, with that, those is an explanation of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Beutler, did you want any of the time? Thank you. No, there are no lights on the committee amendments. Would you like to close? He waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 634. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. We're voting on the committee amendments to LB 634. Have you all voted? We're voting on the committee amendments to LB 634. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: The committee amendments are adopted. On the bill now to advance, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, LB 634 was first introduced to, with the intent of lowering emission fees paid by electric generating plants in Hastings, Grand Island and Fremont. As I've said, we've done a number of other things as we've worked through this process and now we have a bill that I think is a great improvement and actually looks at something that's been an issue for a number of businesses and utilities and that's how we determine the cost that will be charged for the permitting. And we give a two-year time frame for...we asked DEQ to come back with a plan starting in this summer and